

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A positioning apparatus, comprising a plug member (12) projecting from a first block (4) and adapted for insertion into a positioning hole (5) formed in a second block (2),

a plurality of slide portions (61, 61) opposed to each other across the plug member in an opposed direction and (12) arranged around the plug member (12) for movement in a first radial direction (D1) substantially orthogonal to the opposed direction thereof,

a first pressing member (15) diametrically expandably and diametrically contractibly and axially movably within a predetermined range arranged outside the slide portions (61, 61),

a second pressing member (19) diametrically expandably and diametrically contractibly and axially movably within a predetermined range arranged outside the slide portions (61, 61) and inside the first pressing member (15),

wherein the first pressing member (15) or the second pressing member (19) is arranged to be driven toward a base end by a drive arrangement means (D), such that the slide portions (61, 61) expand the first pressing member (15) in a second radial direction (D2) different from the first radial direction (D1), and such that the slide portions (61, 61) are moved in the first radial direction (D1) with respect to the plug member (12).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1, including

an inclined outer surface (13) formed on the second pressing member (19),

an inclined inner surface (17) enabling a tapering engagement with the inclined outer surface (13) formed on the first pressing member (15),

an axially movable drive member (21) arranged to be inserted into the plug member (12), said drive member (21) connected to the first pressing member (15) or the second pressing member (19),

said drive member (21) being arranged to move the first pressing member (15)

or the second pressing member (19) toward the base end for locking to expand the first pressing member (15) in the second radial direction (D2) by the tapering engagement and to bring the first pressing member (15) into close contact with an inner peripheral surface of the positioning hole (5), and

said drive member (21) being also arranged to move the first pressing member (15) or the second pressing member (19) toward a leading end for releasing by canceling the diametrically expanded condition of the first pressing member (15) and canceling the closely contacted condition.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1, including

an advancing means (69) arranged arrangement configured to advance the first pressing member (15) or the second pressing member (19) toward a leading end.

Claims 4-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1 or ~~Claim 4~~, wherein

the first pressing member ~~or pressing member~~ (15) is formed in an annular shape.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 7, wherein

a slit (51) is formed in the first pressing member ~~or pressing member~~ (15),

said slit enabling the first pressing member ~~or the pressing member~~ (15) to deform in a diametrically expanding direction and a diametrically contracting direction.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the second pressing member (19) is formed in an annular shape.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 9, including

a slit (57) formed in the second pressing member (19), said slit enabling the second pressing member (19) to deform in a diametrically expanding direction and a diametrically contracting direction.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 9, including

gaps (A, A) disposed between the second pressing member (19) and the plug member (12) in the first radial direction (D1).

Claims 12-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended). The positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1-~~or claim 4~~, wherein

the drive arrangement means (D) is configured arranged to move the second block (2) toward a base end via the first pressing member-~~or pressing member~~ (15) such that the first pressing member-~~or pressing member~~ (15) comes into close contact with an inner peripheral surface of the positioning hole (5), and presses a supported surface (2a) of the second block (2) against a support surface (1a) of the first block (1).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended). A clamping system, comprising the positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1-~~or claim 4~~.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended). A clamping system, comprising a plurality of positioning apparatuses, wherein at least one of which is a positioning apparatus as set forth in claim 1-~~or claim 4~~.